

# Harvest, Halloween events set



## Neighbors treat tricksters, Sunday

**Trick or treating is Sunday, 6-8 p.m., in Kirtland Air Force Base housing. Residents who would like to have trick-or-treaters visit should light their porches during those hours.**

**Security forces members will patrol the housing areas on Halloween. Get a free Halloween safety pamphlet at police services, 846-0369, Building 20220.**

## Fall fun festival

A Neighborhood Fall Fun Fest is in Maxwell Housing at Crossroads Circle today, 3-7 p.m.

The fun fest includes live music, a climbing wall, a children's haunted house, children's costume contest, a jumping castle, a visit by McGruff the Crime Prevention Dog, free food and beverages. The event is sponsored by the Integrated Delivery System/Community Helping Agencies Team and Kirtland Family Housing/EPT Management Company. Call 846-0741.

## Grown-up costumes

Mountain View Club hosts a dinner and dance with music by the Roger Burns Trio in the main ballroom, tomorrow. The dinner and dance costs \$11.95. Club members save \$2. Dinner is at 5:30. Prizes are awarded for best, most unique and special "What the Heck is That" costume contests. Make reservations at 846-5165.

## Not bad for an old bat

Pet a live bat, listen to its heart with a stethoscope, watch one eat. Bats with Dr. Donna Howell, a bat keeper, brings live bats and a slide presentation on bats to the Kirtland Air Force Base Library, tomorrow, 2 p.m. This is limited to the first 30 people. Call 846-1071.

## Candy, kids and carnival

A Halloween party for children 5-8 years old is at the Youth Center, tonight, 5-7 p.m. Games, carnival events, a bouncy castle and "loads of candy" are part of the festivities. Register today for \$5 for Youth Center members and \$8 for nonmember. Call 846-4092.

# Army gate guards return to civilian life

BY SENIOR AIRMAN  
ERIN L. SMITH

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

As the dust settled after Sept. 11, Airmen from throughout the base were called serve as security forces gate guards so that fully trained security forces members could be used in areas requiring more intense security.

This short-term solution ended when Soldiers from the New Mexico Army National Guard was called on to keep the base secure by assisting the 377th Security Forces Squadron in gate duty, flight line security and by conducting Random Antiterrorism Measures.

Receiving praise from all levels of command and the many base visitors for their quick response to the base's needs and their professional demeanor on the gates, the Soldiers from the New Mexico Army National Guard are preparing to be relieved of their security duties on Nov. 4. After guarding the base for two years the Soldiers will now go back to being school teachers, police officers, full-time students, retail employees and other civilian positions.

The Soldiers are being replaced by Air Force civilian security forces hired by the base this summer and military augmentees.

"All the Soldiers came together from all sorts of backgrounds and did an exemplary job," said Capt. Michael D. Berry, force protection commander, Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 200th Air Defense Artillery, New Mexico Army National Guard.



Photo by Clover Hatcher

**New Mexico Army National Guard Spec. Woody Phelps, Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 200th Air Defense Artillery, checks the identification of a driver going through the Gibson Gate.**

During the time they spent at the gates, security procedures were changed in reaction to the September 11 attacks and the Army National Guard stepped up to the challenge of instituting the new measures.

They trained with the 377th Security Forces Squadron on various safety procedures and in preparation for deployments. They also gained experience that will be beneficial in their civilian lives.

"In my job as a police officer with Albuquerque Police Department, I am only responsible for myself," said Capt. Berry. "In my position with the guard, I am responsible for nearly 100 Soldiers. This has given me practical knowledge and experience supervising others."

As a farewell, the Soldiers are having an awards presentation ceremony and dining out celebration Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. at the Mountain View Club.



Photo by Todd Berenger

## Checking out the upgrades

Honeywell employees involved in a recent series of upgrades to the C-5B as part of the Avionics Modernization Program, prepare to board a test aircraft. The upgrades are in the final phase of flight testing. Honeywell serves as primary software integrator on the software-intense development program. The aircraft arrived at Kirtland Air Force Base as part of the first phase of an Air Force-planned, two-phase modernization effort for the C-5. The modernization effort implemented communication, navigation, surveillance/air traffic management, the All Weather Flight Control System, and mobility command and control capabilities. It also installed Secretary of Defense-directed navigation and safety equipment, terrain awareness and warning system and traffic alert and collision avoidance system, reducing the threat of controlled flight into terrain and midair collisions. The C-5 AMP first flew Dec. 21, 2002. Phase II of the C-5 modernization effort will be the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program. The RERP program will replace aircraft engines and unreliable systems, thereby improving fleet availability, lowering operating costs, and increasing performance.



# Bronze Star Medal presented to IG

Col. Kenneth R. Dorner, 377th Air Base Wing inspector general, was presented a Bronze Star Medal by Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, in a ceremony Oct. 25 in the Wing Presentation Center.

He was recognized for his meritorious achievement as group commander while serving with the 3rd Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, as corps air liaison officer and air support operations center director, with the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Camp Victory, Iraq.

Colonel Dorner was exposed to the extreme danger of frequent mortar, rocket and small arms attacks while engaged in ground operations against the enemy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, March 17-June 19.

He provided "unparalleled support" to the combat operations of tactical air control parties and combat weather teams in 11 Expeditionary Air Support Operations squadrons deployed to 25 locations in the Iraqi Theater.

Responsible for more than 220 military members in direct combat with the enemy, Colonel Dorner guaranteed the members were equipped, ready to engage and defeat the enemy during Operations Resolute Sword and Vigilant Resolve, the most intense period of conflict since the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Col. Kenneth R. Dorner, 377th Air Base Wing inspector general, receives a Bronze Star Medal from Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, in a ceremony Oct. 25. Colonel Dorner earned the medal for his service in Iraq.

He also was responsible for effective use of aircraft delivering more than 140 bombs and 13,000 rounds of

ammunition with a 92 percent target kill rate, eliminating more than 2,000 of the enemy.

Photo by Todd Berenger

## 58 SOW school reels from tragic loss of recent graduate

BY TECH. SGT.  
ROBERT SMEAD  
58th Training Squadron

Many people on Kirtland Air Force Base don't realize that the 58th Special Operations Wing operates a technical training school. The school is responsible for training non-prior service students to be helicopter flight engineers, aerial gunners, C-130 loadmasters and radio operators. The school averages 70 to 80 students a year.

As chief military training leader in charge of these students, I feel I am rather fortunate. If I were assigned to another Air Force training base, I would have hundreds of students under my control and would likely not really know any of them.

My senior military training leader, Tech. Sgt. Randall Dias, and I help these students with every aspect of their lives. We get to know them and they get to know us, but it can be a double-edged sword.

Recently, an Air Force HH-60G Pavehawk Helicopter crashed while on a rescue mission in Afghanistan. The only person killed was Airman 1st Class Jesse Samek.

This young man had spent one year and five days with us and had departed for his first assignment this past June. Jesse was an outstanding Airman and I have no doubt would have gone far in whatever path he chose in the future.

His life and loss have touched us and our other students both past and present.

We thank him for his service and his parents for raising a son with such high values as to place the lives of others above his own. Jesse exemplifies the Search and Rescue creed "That others may live."

God speed Jesse and thanks for stopping by.



Airman 1st Class Jesse Samek

## Albuquerque Reads still has volunteer slots

Albuquerque Reads is a literacy program to help kindergarten students with reading and writing.

The program is sponsored through an Albuquerque Public Schools and Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce joint program. This year, the program expanded to Wherry Elementary School, and many TEAM KIRTLAND members have volunteered their time as tutors to make the program a success.

Tutors will spend 30 minutes three times a week with the kindergartners. They will read to a child or help the child read for 10 minutes, followed by a writing activity for 10 minutes and a phonics/word recognition session for 10 minutes. For a full program, 30 slots still need to be filled.

The tutoring program was launched Oct. 6 with a luncheon for the tutors held at the Radisson on Oct. 14. Graduates from last year's Albuquerque Reads program at Bel-Air Elementary School read Mrs. Wishy Washy by Joy Cowley to the audience.

Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing Commander, fully endorses the Albuquerque Reads program.

For information, contact Albuquerque Reads coordinator Roxane Marrujo at 843-7323 or rmarrujo@abqchamber.com, or Maj. Lisa McColgan at 846-7296.

Questions about excused absences can be addressed to your servicing employee-management relations specialist in Civilian Personnel Flight, 846-8079.

For a volunteer application, visit the Web site at [www.kirtland.af.mil/doc/Albuquerque%20Reads.pdf](http://www.kirtland.af.mil/doc/Albuquerque%20Reads.pdf).

### Senior officer transfer

The Air Force announced that Lt. Col. (Col. select) Julia E. Nelson, 377th Medical Group chief nurse, is being transferred to the 59th Surgical Operations Group, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, as chief nurse.

### Bill Cain safety brief encores here

Bill Cain of the National Crime Prevention Task Force returns to Kirtland Air Force Base to present his "Street Smarts: Holiday Personal Safety" briefing. The popular briefing offered Nov. 3 and 4, each day at 8 and 10:30 a.m., and 1:30 and 3 p.m., in the theater.

The briefing is mandatory for all 377th Air Base Wing military personnel but is open to all other TEAM KIRTLAND members. The briefing is not for attendance by children.

Mr. Cain offers a safety kit for \$60, sold in lieu of a speaker's fee to defray his expenses. The kit includes a "call police" banner, portable door lock and a safety booklet.

### Leave returned to reservist/civil service employees

In the matter of *Butterbaugh vs. Department of Justice*, 336.F.3d 1332 Fed Cir. 2003, a July 24, 2003 decision was issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit.

The decision ruled that federal agencies should not have charged Reservists military leave for non-workdays that occurred within a specific period of military duty.

The Office of Personnel Management has released guidance to assist Civilian Personnel and Civilian Payroll Offices in processing employee's administrative claims for military leave on non-workdays.

If you feel you have a claim, you will need orders, certification of attendance or other documentation indicating that you engaged in one or more periods of active military duty that included non-workdays during the applicable claims period.

The agency must consider claims six years prior to the date the claim is filed. For example, if an employee filed a claim on Nov. 1, 2004, the agency must consider any period of military service between Nov. 1, 1998 and Dec. 21, 2000.

Claims for those civilians serviced by the 377th Mission Support Squadron Civilian Personnel Office, may be forwarded to, 377 MSS/DPCL, ATTN: Alfreda Fain, 846-8953.

### Social Security, military retired pay increases

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income and military and Veterans Affairs benefits increase 2.7 percent in 2005, the Social Security Administration announced.

In addition to the Social Security increase, military retired members, Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants and individuals receiving VA compensation will see the 2.7 percent COLA increase.